

Call for proper steps to ensure food security

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Proper steps should be taken immediately to ensure food security as the impacts of global climate change would seriously threaten it, Agriculture Adviser CS Karim said yesterday.

"Food security of the country will be threatened most due to the consequences of climate change and we already have got some signs of that," he said at the inaugural ceremony of a consultation meeting on 'Climate Change Strategy and Action Plan-2008'.

The Ministry of Environment and Forest organised the daylong meeting at Biam auditorium in the city.

Speaking as the chief guest, the adviser said researchers should develop high yielding and drought-, flood- and salinity-tolerant varieties of crops as the climate change is causing an increase in the salinity level of soil and the frequency of floods and drought.

The country should be proactive in tackling the impacts of climate change, he said, adding that the government has already allocated Tk 300 crore funds for adaptation to climate change and has taken an initiative to find out ways to face it.

The adviser also urged the NGOs, civil society organisations and the media to come forward to help face climate change. "Everybody should contribute to the efforts to tackle the climate

change."

Environment expert Dr Ainun Nishat presented a paper on 'Climate Change Strategy and Action Plan 2008'.

He said the country should focus more on research, capacity building, and development of infrastructure to adopt proper adaptation strategies.

"The climate change action plan should be a comprehensive

guideline. There should be separate action plans for every sector and institution," he added.

Dr Nishat also said the country needs to conduct more research on agriculture as the climate change would hit the agriculture sector first.

He also stressed the need for capacity building to negotiate with the developed countries, which are largely responsible for greenhouse

gas emission, to receive adaptation fund, as Bangladesh would be worst affected by the climate change.

"We need to take urgent and quick action to fight the climate change," he said.

Research Director of BIDS Dr M Asaduzzaman presented another paper on 'Introduction to climate change and its probable impacts'. Environment and Forest secretary

AHM Rezaul Kabir chaired the session.

Dr Khandaker Rashedul Haque, Director General of the Department of Environment (DoE) Dr Rezaul Karim, DoE Director Mohammad Rezaul Karim, Prof Dr Rezaul Rahman, Qamrul Islam Choudhury and Steve Jones took part in the technical seminar.



Dhakabashi takes out a colourful procession from Hazaribagh Park in the city yesterday marking 400 years of Dhaka city.

'Take action against encroachers to save Buriganga'

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Dhakabashi, a socio-cultural voluntary organisation engaged in upholding tradition and cultural heritage of Dhaka city, held a rally at Hazaribagh Park in the city yesterday with a call to save the river Buriganga.

Dhakabashi and Dhaka Nagar 400 Bachar Udayan Parishad jointly organised the rally in celebration of 400 years of Dhaka city.

Speakers at the rally urged the government to formulate an action plan to save the river Buriganga and recover the land of the river from the encroachers.

300 bottles of phensidyl seized

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Members of Rapid Action Battalion (RAB-3) early yesterday arrested a driver of Bangladesh Road Transport Authority (BRTA) and recovered 300 bottles of phensidyl, 100 kilograms of cannabis.

RAB-3 officials said they seized a mini truck owned by Narsinghdi BRTA driver Monir Hossain and recovered the drugs from the truck in the city.

Monir carried the drugs from Brahmanbaria. He had been supplying the illicit drugs in different areas using his BRTA identity, they added.

Focus on gender-sensitive edn in Saarc summit

Speakers urge govt

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Speakers at a discussion yesterday called on the government to focus on the issue of introducing a gender-sensitive education in the upcoming Saarc summit to empower women as well as making them skilled, confident and self-esteemed.

Politicians, educationist, woman activists and journalists said this at a discussion on 'Woman empowerment and education system: Context South Asia' held at the National Press Club with Karmojibi Nari Chairperson Shirin Akter in the chair.

Shirin Akter suggested forming a parliamentary caucus in the next elected government to work an ideal education system which will contribute to women empowerment.

Nishat Jahan Rana and Johra Shamim jointly presented a keynote paper where they mentioned the Saarc agreement and the constitutional obligation of the government of Bangladesh for providing pro-people, universal and free education to children between the ages six and 14.

They suggested that the government should introduce gender-sensitive curriculum in addition to ensuring quality education for the primary-level students and resisting drop-outs before reaching

secondary level.

Former lawmaker Shagufta Yasmin Emily underscored the need for both reserved seats and seats by direct election for women as they have to face obstacles three times more than their male counterparts in order to go to the parliament.

Researcher of Bangladesh Institute of Development Studies Pratima Pal Mojumdar said, "The number of private primary schools have been established drastically in the last two decades, but the number of government primary schools are not comparable to that growth."

The government has no policy for employment of women with technical education, she said, adding that the government's decision of adding VAT in such sectors in this year's budget is an anticipatory attitude towards women empowerment.

Teacher of Holy Cross School Atia Hossain said, "Education should be restructured in such a way which would help build the sense of nationality and sense of value for the next generation."

Professor Latifa Akand, teacher of Udayan School Nazma Banu, former lawmaker Meher Afroz Chumki and journalist Shanta Maria also addressed the discussion organised by Karmojibi Nari.

BCL protests assault on FF, burn effigies of Razakars

DU CORRESPONDENT

Dhaka University (DU) unit of Bangladesh Chhatra League (BCL), student wing of Awami League (AL), yesterday staged a demonstration on the campus protesting the assault on freedom fighter Sheikh Muhammad Ali Aman by Islami Chhatra Shibir cadres.

Hundreds of BCL leaders and activists brought out a protest procession from Madhu's Canteen at around 12:30pm that paraded different streets on the campus and held a protest rally in front of Dhaka University Central Students' Union (DUCSU) building.

Islami Chhatra Shibir cadres assaulted the freedom fighter at Institute of Diploma Engineers in the city at a programme of Jatiya Muktioddha Parishad, an organisation backed by Jamaat-e-Islami, on Friday.

Right after the rally, they burnt effigies of Razakars (local collaborator of the Pakistani army during the liberation war in 1971) and chanted slogans against Jamaat-Shibir.

At the rally, BCL leaders vowed to work unitedly to foil Jamaat-Shibir conspiracies against the freedom fighters and the country.

BCL leaders Mahmud Hasan Ripon, Abul Kalam, Sohul Rana Tipu, Sajjad Saqib Badsha and Tareq Al Mamun spoke at the rally.